

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**October, 2009**

# INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## 2009

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## **INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM**

### **Membership Roster**

#### **Senators**

Ed Charbonneau, Chairperson  
Valparaiso

Sue Errington  
Muncie

Randall Head  
Logansport

Connie Sipes  
New Albany

#### **Representatives**

Vanessa Summers  
Indianapolis

Dennis Tyler  
Muncie

Phil Hinkle  
Indianapolis

Cleo Duncan  
Greensburg

#### **Lay Members**

Hugh Beebe  
New Haven

Michael Carmin  
Upland

Dave Becker  
Indianapolis

Dr. Gladys Beale  
Fort Wayne

John E. Taylor  
Indianapolis

Robin Murphy, Ph.D.  
Bloomington

#### **Staff**

Francine Rowley-Lacy  
Attorney for the Commission

Chris Baker  
Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

## **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE**

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation (IC 12-11-7-5 and IC 12-11-7-6) directing the Commission to do the following:

- (1) Study the service delivery system for individuals with autism and the families of individuals with autism, including the following:
  - (A) An analysis of the number of Indiana citizens believed to have autism.
  - (B) Funding amounts and sources.
  - (C) Types of expenditures and services provided.
  - (D) The number of clients served.
  - (E) Relationships among agencies and organizations.
  - (F) Residential options for individuals with autism.
- (2) Study the need for and effectiveness of programs for individuals with autism.
- (3) Oversee and update the development of a comprehensive plan for services for individuals of all ages with autism.

The Legislative Council did not assign any specific topics to the Commission for the 2009 interim.

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Commission met 3 times during the interim on September 8, September 21, and October 13, 2009.

The Commission received information at the three meetings concerning the following:

- (1) An update from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), on:
  - (A) the status of the service delivery system;
  - (B) waiting lists; and
  - (C) funding and costs for services.
- (2) An update from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism that included the accomplishments that the state of Indiana has made regarding autism and autism training programs, challenges the state will encounter, the need for and effectiveness of programs for individuals with autism, and future projects of the Center.
- (3) An update from the Autism Society of Indiana concerning the Indiana comprehensive plan on autism, including the relationships among agencies and organizations.
- (4) An explanation of the Indiana health insurance mandate for autism spectrum disorders from Representative Tyler and the Indiana Department of Insurance.
- (5) An update from the Christian Sarkine Center for Autism concerning their work

with medical students, residents, community physicians, individuals with autism and their families.

(6) An update from the Indiana State Police concerning the Indiana State Police health insurance plan.

## **II. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Commission made the following recommendations:

(1) The Commission recommends that the Autism Society of Indiana update the Indiana Comprehensive State Plan To Guide Services For Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorders to include a plan to address the autistic adult population in Indiana.

(2) The Commission recommends that the Autism Society of Indiana present a status report to the Commission in the 2010 interim that encompasses the plan to address the autistic adult population in Indiana.

(3) The Commission recommends that a resolution based on preliminary draft (PD) 3086 and addressing the following matters be considered for introduction during the 2010 session of the General Assembly:

(A) Training in autism spectrum disorders for:

(i) all certificated and noncertificated employees of school corporations; and

(ii) all individuals who are employed by entities that contract with school corporations and have direct contact with students within the scope of their employment.

(B) Requiring state educational institutions that offer courses in social sciences to include information concerning autism spectrum disorders in their curriculum.

Additional details concerning the Commission's proceedings are available in the Commission's minutes, which can be accessed from the General Assembly website at:

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/>

Witness List

Peter Bisbecos, Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

Mary Ciccarelli, M.D., Associate Chair for Education, Department of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Pediatrics

Kim Dodson, Associate Executive Director, The Arc of Indiana

Belinda Hughes, Parent of an autistic child

Dr. Christopher J. McDougale, M.D., Albert E. Sterne Professor and Chairman of Psychiatry  
Senior Consultant, Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center

Peter Nalin, M.D., FAAFP, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine

Dr. Cathy Pratt, Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism

Dana Renay, Executive Director, Autism Society of Indiana Chapter

Brad Scully, Major, Indiana State Police

Emily Shelman, Legislative Liaison, Indiana Department of Education

Anita Strauss, Deputy Commissioner, Indiana Department of Insurance

Dr. Naomi Swiezy, Clinical Director, Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center, Program Director, HANDS in Autism

Paula Wales, M.D., Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs and Associate Professor of Surgical Education, part-time